

VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

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FINAL TRIBUTE

VDFP HONORS FALLEN COMRADES



(RICHMOND, VA --June 5, 2004)

One of the most important events on the Virginia Department of Fire Programs calendar is the annual Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service.

For the past seven years, VDFP has been at the center of this final commemoration of the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

On June 5, 2004, again members of the fire and emergency services community from across the Commonwealth joined on the lawn of the state capitol to salute: Captain John Miller of Norfolk Fire and Rescue; Captain Paul Nichols of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Firefighter Louis Farri of the Alexandria Fire Department, as well as the memory of all Virginia firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

"Every person that enters the fire and emergency service profession understands and accepts the risks involved and that is why it is so important to pay tribute to the selflessness of these noble men and women," says Adam Thiel, Executive Director of Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

Included on the program were The Honorable John W. Marshall, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety; the greater Richmond Pipes and Drums; the Virginia Public Safety Honor Guard and the more than 50 organizations and individuals who provided special needs for the service.

Again, we say thank you to our fallen comrades who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their fellow citizens.

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July 2004

A MESSAGE FROM NEW VFBSB CHAIR



Newly elected Chair of the Virginia Fire Service Board--Lt. Lora J. Cooke

My name is Lora Cooke and I am the newly elected Chair of the Virginia Fire Services Board. I accept this responsibility with the utmost respect for the fire and rescue responders in the Commonwealth. I bring 23-years of fire service experience to the position--service that began at the age of 16 when I became a volunteer with Coles District VFD. The last 21 years have been as a career firefighter in Prince William County. My current assignment is Lieutenant of Tower 512.

The purpose of the Virginia Fire Services Board is to provide assistance to Virginia's fire service community through policy decisions and financial grants in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

I look forward to leading the Virginia Fire Services Board in partnership with the Department of Fire Programs during what we believe will be a period of financial stability for the Commonwealth. It is my goal to see that the fire service receives the maximum financial and logistical support possible.

It would be a pleasure to see you sometime at one of our meetings. Firefighters and the public are always welcome. If you would like to speak with me personally, my door is always open. I can be contacted at lcooke@pwccgov.org.

VDFP GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

Agency Outreach Efforts Extend Into the Fall Season

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs has completed a successful two month tour of duty spreading the word about fire safety in two major outreach events.

In May, VDFP spread the message of home fire safety at the annual children's safety fair at Maymont Park. The event which played host to more than 300 kids provided an opportunity for VDFP to share important information about fire safety to one of the most vulnerable age groups.

"The children were eager to learn about fire safety," says Jennifer Cole, Virginia Department of Fire Programs project coordinator. "We were able to communicate some important information while keeping it fun for the kids."

Clearly VDFP was a favorite of the crowd with the agency's new PLINKO game. The youngsters were given fire safety questions which qualified them to win one of five fun fire education tools including the VDFP Kids Activity Books and 911 Emergency pencils.



VDFP intern, Charles Pinto makes a new friend at the PLINKO Board.

VDFP FYI

SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

CHECK: SCBA Regularly!

Has your Self Contained Breathing Apparatus been tested lately for flow and quality of the air?

Don't wait until an emergency situation to find out that your equipment needs to be serviced. It is a matter of life and death.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

TAKE CAUTION DURING AND AFTER A SUMMER STORM:

- **Lightning** during a thunderstorm generates a variety of fire hazards. Lightning's electrical charge and heat can electrocute on contact, splitting trees and causing fires.
- **Pools of water** and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- **Appliances** that have been exposed to water can short and become a fire hazard.

...GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

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Eddie Buchanan; Larry McAndrews and Tom Berry at this year's Live-Burn Event.

In June, VDFP targeted a different demographic with our annual Live Burn demonstration where state legislators, members of the media and selected civilians are given the rare opportunity to experience what firefighters see everyday.

Held at the Hanover Training Facility, VDFP played host to Del. Jeffrey Frederick and representatives from WRIC-News 8, WTVR- News 6 and The Richmond Voice Newspaper. Along with our four special guests, several staff members and several agency interns also accepted the invitation to see what it is like to brave the burning building.

"It was awesome," exclaimed Charles Pinto who is interning this summer with VDFP. "I have never experienced anything like what I saw in that building."

VDFP will continue its outreach tour of duty in September when the agency makes another appearance at the State Fair of Virginia. The event, which draws people from all across the state, will also feature the opportunity for visitors to learn about fire safety in the exhibition hall.

DID YOU RECIEVE AN ATL SUPPLEMENT?

On June 18, 2004 several localities discovered that funds had been wired into their accounts. These funds are supplemental ATL disbursements from the Fire Programs Fund. The amounts wired, plus those previously received, combine to make up the full amount of the jurisdiction's FY04 ATL entitlement.

Due to the fiscal uncertainty at the beginning of '04, VDFP decided to make disbursements at the '03 level to prevent any hardship to localities and departments that depend on these funds. A more detailed explanation can be found at www.vafire.com. All questions regarding the disbursements should be addressed to Drew Wallner, Branch Chief—Administration & Support at dwallner@vdfp.state.va.us.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

ARFF 48 Hour Certification School Course -
August 2-7, 2004.
Richmond, VA

2004 Virginia State Weekend - National Fire Academy. August 6-
8, 2004
Emmitsburg, MD

Juvenile Firesetter 1 - August 10-11.
Juvenile Firesetter 2 - August 12-13.
Richmond, VA

Safety Tour - 1st Stop Back to Basics.
August 17, 2004
Richmond, VA

2004 Virginia State Firefighter's Association 118th Annual
Convention - August 18-21, 2004
Roanoke, VA

VFSB Board Meeting - August 21, 2004
In conjunction with the VA State Firefighter's Association Annual
Convention
Roanoke, VA

September

Wise Regional School Sept 11-12, 2004

2004 Central VA Regional Fire School,
Sept. 18-19, 2004
Lynchburg/Campbell County

Annual Virginia HAZMAT Conference.
September 23-25, 2004
Virginia Beach, VA

**Please log on to the VDFP
website for a full explanation of
Aid to Locality supplemental
funds. @ www.vafire.com**